

have since been examined, and these show a gradation from the small to the large form, and correspond with those from Malawi.

The greater use of light traps in the tropics, as in Britain, is leading to a better knowledge of the insects other than Lepidoptera for which the traps are mainly used. Such records of earwigs at light are useful in understanding the weather conditions under which earwigs are attracted to light, which is possibly the same as for most insects, and also for the frequency of flight. Further records of flight other than to light traps are, of course, equally desirable.

I am most grateful to Mr J. A. Whellan, for the opportunity to examine the specimens of *Forficula senegalensis* Serville, and for the details of his remarkable observation of an apparent massed flight of these insects.

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Notes and Observations

LARVAL ECDYSIS OF BUCCULATRIX SPP. (LEP. LYONETIDAE): The construction of "moulting cocoons" by the larvae of *Bucculatrix* species is well known, though not mentioned in our standard text-books; however, I at any rate did not know until today that the manner of ecdysis is also unusual in this genus. Inside their moulting cocoons the larvae curl themselves into a tight circle. When the moult takes place, instead of the old skin peeling backwards, bunching up as it goes, the larva walks straight out of its skin, leaving it fully extended and inflated, exactly in the attitude the larva had assumed. Consequently the cocoon looks as if it still housed a live larva, and it is only if the leaf to which it is affixed is held up to a strong light that the skin will be perceived to be empty. On the other hand, the moult for pupation is normal, and the cast larval skin contracts into the usual little bundle, with daylight showing between it and the anus of the pupa.

This observation is based on the examination of the moulting cocoons of seventeen larvae of *B. nigricomella* Zell. It is highly probable that my remarks hold good for all the species in the genus; certainly in the past I have found moulting cocoons of some of the other species which contained larvae which subsequently appeared to be "dead".—A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex. 6.iv.71.